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DALTON-IN-FURNESS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR  
1952.



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DALTON-IN-FURNESS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report  
of the  
Medical Officer of Health  
for the Year  
1952.

ULVERSTON,

November, 1953.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Dalton-in-Furness Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report  
of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1952.

GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area in acres.	8,022
Population - Registrar-General's Estimate	
of home population.	10,340
Number of inhabited houses.	3,221
Rateable Value.	£42,082
Amount Produced by a Penny Rate.	£162

The Urban District of Dalton-in-Furness is situated in the North-Western part of the County of Lancashire adjoining the County Borough of Barrow-in-Furness and the Rural District of Ulverston. Height above Ordnance Datum varies between 850 feet in the North-East to sea level in the West. There are outcrops of Limestone in various parts of the District and in the past there has been extensive mining for iron ore which has left the surface considerably scarred and some of the low lying area flooded with water. Subsidence still occurs.

The male working population is largely employed in the Shipyards and Steelworks at Barrow and in agriculture. Some light industries employ female labour.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The principal vital statistics for 1952 and for the preceding five years are given in the table on page 2.

The number of live births shows a continuance of the upward trend which was noted last year, whereas the number of deaths shows a welcome decrease from last years high figures. One maternal death was registered which is the first for seven years. Of the one hundred and sixty five births which were registered, 98 were males, 7 being illegitimate, and 67 were females, of which 5 were illegitimate.

Approximately 67% of deaths were in persons of 65 years of age and over and the principle causes of death were:- Heart Disease 63, Vascular lesions of nervous system 14 and malignant growths 17.

Year	Live Births		Deaths (all causes)		Stillbirths		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality			
	Rate per 1,000 regist- tered.	Number 1,000 regist- tered.	Rate per 1,000 regist- tered.	Number 1,000 regist- tered.	Rate per 1,000 regist- total births.	Number 1,000 regist- total births.	Rate per 1,000 regist- total births.	Number 1,000 regist- total births.	Rate per 1,000 regist- live births.	No. of deaths- live regist- tered.	Rate per 1,000 regist- live births.	No. of deaths- live regist- tered.
1952	165	143	16.0	143	3	18	1	5.95	5	30	4	21
1951	161	170	15.5	170	4	24	nil	nil	9	56	5	31
1950	155	143	14.7	143	4	25	nil	nil	6	39	3	19
1949	156	133	17.6	133	4	21	nil	nil	6	32	-	-
1948	184	136	17.5	136	3	16	nil	nil	14	76	-	-
1947	218	131	20.5	131	5	22	nil	nil	7	32	-	-
Average 5 years 1947 - 1951 adjusted (live birth-rate (comparability factor, 1.08) = 17.2 per 1,000. (death-rate (comparability factor, 0.97) = 13.4 per 1,000.	-	-	17.2	-	-	21	-	nil	-	47	-	-

The table below shows comparisons between birth and death rates in England and Wales, 148 smaller towns and this district.

The rates quoted are for 1,000 population in all cases.

	England and wales.		148 Smaller Towns. 25,000 - 50,000 population.		Dalton-in-Furness Urban District.	
	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.
1948	17.9	10.8	19.2	10.7	17.5	12.9
1949	16.7	11.7	18.0	11.6	17.6	12.6
1950	15.8	11.6	16.7	11.6	15.8	13.1
1951	15.5	12.5	16.7	12.5	16.9	16.0
1952	15.3	11.3	15.5	11.2	17.2	13.4

Note: The birth and death rates quoted for the Dalton-in-Furness Urban District for the years 1950, 1951 and 1952 are adjusted rates after correction for age and sex distribution. The remainder are crude rates. The correction is made so that the adjusted rates for Dalton can be compared with the adjusted rate for any other locality or with the rate for England and Wales as a whole.

#### STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health:-

J. L. WILD, M.A., M.B.,  
B.Chir., M.R.C.S.,  
L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Other Appointments Held:-

Medical Officer of Health -  
Ulverston Urban District  
Council, Grange-over-Sands  
Urban District Council,  
Ulverston Rural District  
Council.

Divisional Medical Officer -  
Health Division No. 1 -  
Lancashire County Council.

Sanitary Inspector:-

W. W. Jackson, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,  
Meat and Foods Inspector's  
Certificate R.S.I. Certificate  
in Sanitary Science as applied  
to Buildings and Public Works

Other Appointments Held:-

Cleansing Superintendent -  
Dalton-in-Furness Urban  
District.  
Housing Officer - Dalton-in-  
Furness Urban District.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### Water Supplies.

The Urban District of Dalton-in-Furness is provided with water by the Barrow-in-Furness Corporation in mains belonging to the County Borough Council. Dalton is supplied from the Poaka Beck Reservoir and Askam from the Alpha Intake of the River Duddon.

The supply was adequate during the year.

The public supply now serves 3,187 houses direct and another 13 are supplied by standpipes on the public mains. Twenty-one houses are supplied from private sources.

Of the houses having private supplies, those at Snipe Ghyll, Martin, and those at Tythe Barn, 6 and 4 respectively in number, have not had a qualitatively satisfactory supply during the past year. Alternative sources were explored without success and it was necessary to advise the inhabitants to boil the water before drinking.

### Sewerage.

The sewage from Dalton is taken to screening tanks near the gas works and the effluent is then discharged to the Barrow Corporation sewerage system. The sewage from Askam is passed through screening tanks and the effluent discharged to the Duddon Estuary. Sewage from the hamlets of Newton and Martin passes through settling tanks, the effluents being discharged to streams. Lindal possesses a modern sewage works and full treatment is given. The effluent is discharged into a nearby stream and is considered by the Rivers Board to be reasonably satisfactory.

As a result of the report by the Surveyor and the County Surveyor, plans are being prepared for the construction of an efficient sewerage system for the District.

There were at the end of 1952, 3,178 houses on the water carriage system. No conversions took place during the year and there remained 35 privy middens and eight pail closets in the District.

### Housing.

Ten permanent houses and six flats were erected by the Council and four by private builders during 1952. These numbers of completed houses are small but a most determined onslaught is now being made on the housing shortage and it is gratifying to report that at the end of the year 58 houses were in course of erection and contracts for a further 100 houses were being negotiated.

The number of families on the housing application list totalled 188 and a further 83 were living in temporary accommodation.



## Statistics:

### Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:

1. (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 43
- (b) Number of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose. 115
2. (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head 1. above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932. Nil
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose. Nil
3. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. Nil
4. Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. 43

### Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers. 27

### Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-

- (a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:
  - (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring repairs Nil
  - (2) Number of dwelling houses which, after service of formal notices, were rendered fit:-
    - (a) By owners Nil
    - (b) By local authority in default of owners Nil
- (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:
  - (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 32
  - (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-
    - (a) By owners 24
    - (b) By local authority in default of owners Nil

- (c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:
- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made Nil
  - (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders Nil
- (d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:
- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made Nil
  - (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit Nil

#### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Details regarding the inspection of food, shops, stalls and vehicles and places where food is prepared are given in the Sanitary Inspector's report.

#### Milk Supplies.

Action taken with regard to the administration of the Milk and Dairies Acts and Regulations.

The Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 -

No. of registered distributors operating from:-

(a) Dairies in the district	3
(b) Dairy Farms in the district	19
(c) Shops in the district other than dairies	1

The Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949 -

No. of dealers licences issued by the local authority during 1952 in respect of:-	"Tuberculin Tested" Milk	6
	"Accredited" Milk	Nil

Results of Samples of milk taken in the District:-

Raw Milk:-	Number of samples.	Number satisfactory.	Number unsatisfactory.
Tuberculosis - biological tests	Nil	Nil	Nil
Methylene Blue reduction test	12	10	2
B. Coli. examinations	12	9	3

#### Food Poisoning.

Two outbreaks of food poisoning occurred during the year. The first outbreak was in January, in which 15 cases



were discovered, as a result of the Department's investigations. Symptoms were mild and the organism responsible was identified as Staphylococcus Aureus conveyed in milk. The source of the organism was found and eliminated. The second outbreak was in August and a total of three cases was discovered. The organism in this outbreak was Salmonella Typhimurium but the path of spread was not certain. All cases and contacts were tested and all were finally cleared of infection.

# PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following table shows the numbers of cases of the notifiable infectious diseases which occurred in the Urban District during the five years 1947-1951 compared with the numbers in 1952.

Disease.	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	Number of cases.	Removed to hospital.	Deaths in hospital.
Scarlet Fever.	7	37	46	28	0	11	10	0
Measles.	2	185	3	100	36	47	0	0
Whooping Cough.	3	0	22	1	27	18	0	0
Pneumonia.	1	1	6	0	1	3	0	0
Dysentery.	0	0	0	0	3	1	1	0
Puerperal Fever.	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Erysipelas.	2	2	2	5	3	4	2	0
Cerebro-spinal fever.	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0
Polio-myelitis.	1	0	2	0	3	0	0	0
Para-typhoid fever.	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Infective encephalitis.	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Post-infective encephalitis.	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Food Poisoning.	0	0	0	0	0	13	3	0
TOTALS.	18	226	82	134	77	99	18	0

An interesting commentary on the efficacy of diphtheria immunisation is that for the first time it is possible to omit diphtheria from the table, no case having been notified during any of the six years 1947 - 1952, inclusive.

Since 1st July, 1952, the policy has been adopted of disinfecting houses only after tuberculosis and smallpox. Bedding and clothing is still steam disinfected following all cases where these articles are likely to be a method of spread.

# Tuberculosis.

The following table shows the numbers of new cases and mortality during 1952.

Age Periods. Years.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5-	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15-	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25-	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
35-	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
45-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65-	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
75 and upwards.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	4	1	1	0	1	1	0	0
	5		1		2		0	

The table below shows the numbers of new cases and deaths from tuberculosis in Dalton residents during the past 12 years.

Years	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1941	4	4	0	1	1	1	1	0
1942	5	4	4	4	1	4	0	0
1943	12	5	4	5	3	4	0	0
1944	4	4	4	1	5	2	0	0
1945	13	7	1	2	7	1	0	0
1946	4	7	0	2	2	8	1	0
1947	5	8	4	3	2	1	1	0
1948	7	10	3	2	1	5	0	0
1949	10	4	1	4	2	0	2	0
1950	3	7	2	3	3	0	1	1
1951		8	2	2	3	0	2	1
1952	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0

### FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Inspection for purposes of provisions as to health  
(including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections.	Number of Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	18	56	Nil	Nil
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	45	67	Nil	Nil

In one case lack of cleanliness was found and in one case insufficient sanitary accommodation. Both defects were remedied.

### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 - Sect. 47.

No action was taken under the above-mentioned Act during the year.

In conclusion, it is my pleasure to thank the Members of the Health Committee and the officers of the Dalton-in-Furness Urban District Council, particularly the Sanitary Inspector, for their unfailing courtesy and help.

The report of the Sanitary Inspector is appended.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. L. WILD.

Medical Officer of Health.

### DALTON-IN-FURNESS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

To the Chairman and Members of the Dalton-in-Furness Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure to present to you my Annual Report on the work of the Health Department and Cleansing Services for the year ended 31st December, 1952. I also include some notes on the housing position. There was nothing of an unusual nature happened during the year and the work of the Health Department proceeded steadily.

The position regarding the supply of materials and labour appears to have eased slightly, but we have not arrived at

a point where owners can comply speedily with the department's notices. The position is, I feel, as yet too uncertain to allow us to take legal proceedings with any reasonable chance of success and the Committee will appreciate that adverse publicity due to an unsuccessful court action would probably cause more harm than good.

#### Milk Supply.

By far the greater part of the milk in the area is pasteurised and sold in bottles as obtained from the Barrow Dairy. The Barrow Health Department, in whose area the Dairy is situated take numerous samples of supplies passing through the dairy. Sampling of milk from this source sold in the area, would, therefore, appear to be unnecessary.

#### Food and Drugs.

The food shops in the town were visited on seventy-eight occasions. It was necessary in two cases to require minor repairs to be made, and during these visits opportunity was taken to impress upon food handlers the necessity for strict cleanliness.

The following articles of food were condemned as unfit for human consumption

78 cans of meat	23 lbs. biscuits
72 cans of fruit	70 lbs. dates
24 cans of mixed vegetables	20 oz. cheese
14 cans of tomatoes	28 lbs. oats
13 cans of fish	10 doz. sponge puddings
22 cans of milk	29 lbs. sausages
22 cans of preserves	24 lbs. meat
50 lbs. prunes	
19 cwt. sugar	

Included in the 78 cans of meat are 14 cans of ham weight 165 lbs.

#### Offensive Trades.

Seven fried fish shops and one Knacker's Yard in the area - all have been satisfactory during the year.

#### Ice-Cream.

There are now only two premises at which ice-cream is manufactured in this area, both of which are kept in a satisfactory condition.

Samples are difficult to obtain as the manufacturing process is very irregular, being dependent upon the demand at the time, and it is often necessary to make a number of visits before a sample can be taken.

#### Refuse Collection.

The service continues to be carried out without serious complaint.

The position regarding the supply of dustbins appears to be improved though much remains to be done before the situation is satisfactory.

I feel I must comment on the fact that refuse is disposed of at Elliscales tip by means of crude tipping as has been the case for many years. This is a most undesirable practice and the only thing that can be said in favour of Elliscales tip is its isolated position.

There are thirty five privies, eight pail closets and thirty four dry ashpits in the area, these being at outlying premises.

During the year 61 tons of paper valued at £680 and rags to the value of £13 were disposed of.

The corresponding amounts for the year 1951 were 68 tons of paper valued at £896 and rags to the value of £6.

#### Housing.

Ten houses and six flats were added to the Council's housing estate during the year. The lack of houses continues to be a serious matter from a social point of view, and the happiness and wellbeing of these families without their own accommodation is a matter of great concern and should be seriously weighed against the financial considerations, great though they be.

I would suggest again that the Council consider the advisability of building a number of bungalows for older people. These can be built cheaper and speedier per unit, and more units from a given quantity of material than three bedroomed houses, whether or no the houses vacated by the old people are let from the housing list or dealt with privately it still remains a family house, the nett result being that the total accommodation is increased at less expense to the Council.

In conclusion I am happy to record the good feelings existing between various trades in the town and the Health Department in its activities. My thanks are due to the Health Committee, the Medical Officer and other officers of the Council for their unstinted co-operation and to Miss Atkinson and the cleansing staff without whose assistance the work of the Department cannot successfully go on.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. W. Jackson.

Sanitary Inspector.

